

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed 04/17/2003. The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Thaler for spending a half hour on the phone with Applicants on 4 June 03 to discuss the Office Action and to help Applicants better understand the concerns expressed in the Office Action. That phone discussion centered primarily around discussing the differences between Applicants' device and that described by Polansky in US Pat. No. 3,304,557. Polansky describes a reinforcing fiber that is intermittently woven along with axial fibers and this fiber is found adjacent to the outer surface of the tube (see Polansky, C3, L46-58); this reinforcing fiber is an additional floating fiber that is added to the weave. The applicants describe a structural fiber that is continuously interwoven by flexible fibers and is located substantially along the same wall centerline as the flexible fibers; it is not an intermittent or additional fiber as described by Polansky; Applicants' structural fiber instead replaces one of the flexible fibers. To describe Applicants' device structure more clearly and to be consistent with our phone conversation, claims 35 and 36 have been amended; Applicants have use verbiage that is either commonly found in our language or is used in the specification (such as tubular wall, specification P 103, L 22 and reference numeral 662 of Fig. No. 18A). The amended independent claims more clearly identify that the flexible fibers define a tubular wall that has a centerline and that the structural fibers are interwoven by the flexible fibers such that they have the same centerline. This feature allows the structural fibers to be uniformly held by the flexible fibers and is important to the overall successful function of the device. In addition, independent claim number 63 has been deleted and instead a new independent claim number 64. Claim 64 describes the structure of the device using language that refers to the "weave plane"; the specification supports the use of "weave plane" on Page 98, Lines 4,6,7 and 12 and on Page 102, Line 6 and by Reference Numeral 675. The "weave plane" refers to a localized portion of the tubular wall surface that can be

approximated by a plane. The Applicants appreciate consideration of the amended, added, and previously added claims in their current form and welcome input from the Examiner to put them in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service using Express Mail Post Office on the date indicated here and addressed to: Box Patent Application, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 11 June, 2003.

Signature: William J. Drasler Date: 11 June 2003

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